

**Mole @ 25**

# Highlights of Day One

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By Emmanuel Addai

# Opening Ceremony



# Chairman

- Odehe Kpakpa King  
Odaifio Welentsi III,  
Paramount Chief of  
Nungua Traditional Area

# Welcome Address

- By MCE of LEKMA and presented on his behalf by Mr. Kofi Taylor
  - WASH issues are some of the major challenges confronting the Municipality
  - Mentions some of the major on-going WASH-related programmes – desalination plant
  - LEKMA was happy to be hosting such an important platform where WASH issues would be discussed
  - Acknowledged the fact that WASH constituted some of the major challenges facing the Municipality
  - Expected that deliberations during the conference will benefit both present and future generations

# CONIWAS Chairman's address

- Congratulates the organisers and partners of Mole for their ability for their ability to sustain the series for 25 years
- Highlighted the fact that at 14, Mole succeeded in giving birth to CONIWAS, the 'most formidable CSO in the WASH sector of Ghana
- Acknowledged CONIWAS ability to position Mole as a sector event rather than a CSO event
- Said Mole contributed to the establishment of the Water Directorate, CWSA, WRC, EHSD and the addition of 'Water Resources' to the Ministry of Works and Housing
- Showed a video on the history of Mole Series
- Paid tribute to some of the Founders and committed partners

# Solidarity Messages

- Peter kpondugbe – (Founding Father)
  - There has been progress but the vision of mobilizing people to do things for themselves to achieve total coverage in some five years has still not been achieved
- Fred Addae – Director, Water
  - MWRWH acknowledges Mole and CONIWAS contribution to policy, budget preparation, Ghana Compact etc
  - Hoped the forum would spare sometime to deliberate on cholera and climate change issues

# Solidarity Messages

- MLGRD – By Cosmas Cambozie on behalf of Ag. Director
  - CONIWAS is a dependable and strategic partner in environmental sanitation matters and has always been there when it matters most
  - CONIWAS should rebrand itself to reflect the current (sanitation) sector needs

# Solidarity Messages

- ESPA – by Ama Ofori Antwi
  - Called for sustainable financing for environmental sanitation especially as Ghana experiences rapid economic growth since more waste will be generated
  - Commended CONWAS for its boldness in doing a self-assessment to find a better way forward, which ESPA was proud to associate with



# Solidarity Messages

- David Duncan – UNICEF/DP Lead
  - More successes against various commitments have been mixed with some significant achievements and also more significant gaps
  - Some of the gaps include the fact that
    - Ghana is ranked among the 10 worst countries in sanitation
    - 7500 Ghanaian children die of diarrhoea annually
  - We are much better at making commitments than doing something about them

# Theme address

- By Minta Aboagye – Former Director, Water
  - Recounted some historical antecedents of water supply between 1957 and the establishment of the Mole Series
  - Reviewed a couple of past Mole themes to support the fact that the broad objectives of the conference had indeed guided the choice of themes over the years
  - Reminded CONIWAS that the MDGs will give way to the SDGs in 2016, where the global goal on Water will be set by individual countries
  - Expected CONIWAS/Mole to position itself adequately to lend the needed support in defining and monitoring the SDGs for Ghana

# Keynote address

- By Hon Julius Debrah (read by the MCE – LEKMA)
  - Learnt and appreciated the contribution of Mole and CONIWAS to policy and strategy development in WASH
  - Acknowledged the fact that there are still gaps in access to sanitation and data
  - Challenged Mole to devise implementable strategies to address especially the data gap in the operations of NGOs

# Chairman's closing remarks

- Urged Ghanaians to revive their spirit of self-help
- Advised Ghanaians to observe personal and environmental hygiene
- Advised the youth to get involved in CONIWAS/Mole activities
- Encouraged traditional authorities to associate themselves with matters of WASH

# The Mole Cafe



# The Mole Cafe

- Participants were divided into five groups to reflect on all the conference themes from 1989 to 2013 and discuss their relevance, outcomes from recommendations, gaps etc
- Each group was facilitated by resource persons who were personally involved in the conference during the assigned period
- Due to time, the groups could not report back at plenary and are expected to do so this morning